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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1861 (2009), by which the Council requested me to report every three months on the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, the implementation of relevant agreements and the status of refugees and internally displaced persons. The present report provides an update on developments related to the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) since my last report, of 14 July 2009 (S/2009/359). It also provides an update on progress towards the benchmarks for implementation of the MINURCAT mandate outlined in my last report.

II. Update on recent developments

A. Political developments in Chad

2. During the period under review, the Government of Chad and the political opposition made some progress in the implementation of the agreement of 13 August 2007. The general population census was completed on 30 June. The data, which is a precondition for voter registration and constituency delimitation, was released on 13 October. The results have been accepted by the parties to the agreement of 13 August as a satisfactory basis for planning for the elections. In addition, the Government and opposition parties agreed on the names of the 30 members of the Independent National Electoral Commission, who were officially appointed by presidential decree on 13 July. On 16 July, the Secretary-General of the Teachers' Union, Gami Ngarmajal, was designated Head of the Electoral Commission by consensus among the members.

3. On 16 July, the National Assembly adopted new legislation on political parties. The opposition Coalition of Political Parties for the Defence of the Constitution protested, however, that a provision had been removed from the initial draft endorsed by members of the Comité de Suivi of the agreement of 13 August, precluding the movement of an elected parliamentarian from one party to another.

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The disagreement was resolved after the Prime Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to implementing the 13 August agreement in full. On 24 July, the National Assembly eventually adopted an organic law outlining the relations between political parties and their elected members, which included the ban on the latter from changing membership of a political party during an electoral mandate. This law was promulgated by the President, Idriss Déby, on 31 August.

4. The adoption of key legislation and the establishment of the Electoral Commission are important steps towards holding elections in Chad. The political environment continues to be undermined however by the absence of a comprehensive solution to the conflict with armed groups in the east and a lack of progress on broader governance reforms. Implementation of Chapter 4 of the agreement of 13 August on the demilitarization and depoliticization of the administration and reform of the judiciary and armed forces has been slow. In addition, the ruling party and the opposition have yet to agree on the modalities of the voter registration process.

5. At the request of the Electoral Commission, the United Nations dispatched a needs assessment mission to N'Djamena from 29 August to 8 September 2009. The mission held meetings with all stakeholders, including the Commission, the Comité de Suivi, civil society, political party leaders and other partners and is in the process of finalizing its report.

6. On 25 July, the Government of Chad and the Mouvement national, a coalition of three Chadian rebel groups led by Ahmat Hassaballah Soubiane, signed a peace agreement in Tripoli. The agreement, sponsored by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, provided for an end to hostilities, the return of the Mouvement national to Chad, the integration of its fighters into the army or civil service and the participation of the movement into national political life. During the months of August and September, approximately 1,500 combatants associated with the Chadian armed groups reportedly relinquished their arms and returned to Chad. However, the coalition Union des forces de la résistance, which attacked Chadian territory on 4 May, remains outside the framework of any peace agreement.

7. On 19 August, the former President of Chad, Goukouny Weddeye, returned to N'Djamena after 20 years in exile in Algeria. Following a meeting with President Déby, he announced that he harboured no political ambitions and would hold talks with all stakeholders, including opposition leaders and representatives of civil society, to help to promote sustainable peace in the country.

B. Security

8. During the reporting period, the security situation in eastern Chad improved, owing in part to the rainy season, which hampered road movements, halted cross-border incursions and contributed to a significant decline in banditry and other security incidents. Meanwhile, enhanced coordination between the United Nations, the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) and the national police and gendarmerie contributed to an increase in police operations in eastern Chad. During the period, 8 of 17 carjacked vehicles belonging to the United Nations and non-governmental organizations were recovered, mainly by DIS. DIS also contributed to the disbandment of several criminal gangs in Abéché and Goz Beïda, through the arrest of 12 known gang leaders and members.

9. Nevertheless, during the reporting period two particularly egregious security incidents occurred, targeting those assisting humanitarian efforts. On 3 August, two staff members of Médecins sans frontières Holland, one national and one international, were kidnapped at gunpoint in Adé (70 km north-east of Goz Beïda, on the border with the Sudan), and transferred across the border to Darfur by their abductors. The local staff member was able to escape after two days of captivity. The international humanitarian worker was released on 1 September following three weeks of mediation by traditional and local authorities on both sides of the border. On 7 September, a MINURCAT staff member was ambushed in Farchana town, close to the MINURCAT camp, by five armed bandits. The bandits fired shots at the United Nations vehicle, which overturned, injuring the staff member.

C. Relations between Chad and the Sudan

10. During the reporting period, tensions between Chad and the Sudan remained high and no progress was made towards implementing the Dakar or Doha commitments of the two countries. On 16 July, reports were received that bombs dropped by Chadian aircraft struck locations in the vicinity of Umm Dukhum, a town in Western Darfur close to the Chadian border. The United Nations was not able to verify those reports. Despite a series of negative public statements by both sides, the embassies in both countries remained open. Efforts by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Egypt and Qatar to bring the Governments of Chad and the Sudan together also continued.

D. Developments in the north-eastern Central African Republic

11. During the reporting period, the security situation in the Vakaga region of the north-eastern Central African Republic stabilized but remained unpredictable and was characterized by sporadic inter-ethnic clashes. Following attacks in June by ethnic militia against the Forces armées centrafricaines (FACA) and the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement (UFDR) in Birao, UFDR combatants withdrew from the town as part of an agreement mediated by the Government. While some members of the local population have now returned to the town, most remain hesitant to return permanently. Early in August, Kara fighters launched three raids against the villages of Delimbe, Sergobo and Tala (50 km south of Birao). UFDR retaliated by attacking the Kara population of Ouandja, where food stocks of non-governmental organizations were looted.

12. Meanwhile, the Government of the Central African Republic carried out additional efforts aimed at restoring its authority in the region and fostering intercommunity dialogue. Early in August, the appointment and arrival in Birao of a new governor and deputy governor had a positive impact. The rainy season and the impassability of the main road axes contributed to stabilizing the situation. Underlying sources of insecurity remained, however, including inter-ethnic tensions and the weakness of State institutions. The implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme has yet to commence, while the presence of FACA in the region is limited. On 13 August, the President, François Bozizé, launched a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sensitization campaign across the country, an encouraging development.

13. During the reporting period, the MINURCAT military force conducted extensive patrols of Birao and its vicinity to reassure the local population and assist the civilian authorities. The force also extended its radius and projected presence in Sam Ouandja, in the Haute-Kotto department. On 15 September, Operation Scorpion was launched in Sam Ouandja to provide security to WFP operations, as well as for personnel of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of non-governmental organizations. Of the authorized strength of 300 troops, 287 are currently deployed in the sector, where they have a mandate to contribute to the creation of a more secure environment, execute limited operations to extract civilians and humanitarian workers in danger, and protect United Nations personnel and equipment.

E. Humanitarian situation

14. During the reporting period, humanitarian organizations continued to respond to the crisis in eastern Chad, providing aid to 254,000 Sudanese refugees in 12 camps, 70,000 Central African Republic refugees in 11 camps and 171,000 internally displaced persons in 38 sites, as well as approximately 150,000 members of the host population affected by conflict. As the MINURCAT force expanded, its military activities contributed to the enhancement of a security umbrella and the development of a more integrated response to the security situation in the area of operations. However, criminality continued to constrain humanitarian space in eastern Chad. Since the beginning of 2009, 192 attacks on humanitarians have been reported.

15. As a result of the rainy season, no significant returns of refugees and internally displaced persons were observed during the reporting period. Prior to the onset of the rainy season, some 20,700 internally displaced persons returned to their villages in Koukou, Tiero, Marena and Loboutique, in the Dar Sila region. Humanitarian organizations provided assistance to the returnees and are currently evaluating the sustainability of the returns prior to commencing early recovery activities. The voluntary and sustainable repatriation of refugees continues to be impeded, however, by the lack of stability in Darfur, eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic. The presence of refugees and internally displaced persons over several years has placed extra strain on the limited resources available to the host population.

16. In mid-September, the Government of Chad confirmed its decision to relocate the Ouré Cassoni refugee camp at least 50 km inside Chadian territory, citing lawlessness within the camp. It is alleged that weapons trafficking and the recruitment of child soldiers have been prevalent inside the camp, which is located in an insecure area just 7 km from the Sudanese border north of Bahai. The Government has given UNHCR a lead role in planning and coordinating the relocation in close collaboration with Government authorities, MINURCAT and other United Nations agencies.

17. In the Salamat region of southern Chad, 16,635 refugees from the Central African Republic continue to reside in six camps in the Daha and Haraze areas, following clashes between the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix, an ethnic Rounga rebel group, and FACA in January 2009. During the rainy season, MINURCAT provided logistical and security support to humanitarian agencies to facilitate access to these remote areas. Meanwhile, in the Vakaga region of the

north-eastern Central African Republic, it is estimated that 10,000 to 14,000 internally displaced people are living in precarious conditions in the areas surrounding Birao, most of them displaced since the beginning of 2009.

III. Deployment of the United Nations force

18. As at 15 September, the total strength of the MINURCAT force was 2,665 troops, 51 per cent of the authorized strength of 5,225. This number includes 142 staff officers, 20 military liaison officers and 2,503 formed troops. Since my last report, the force strength has not increased significantly as the bulk of formed combat and support enabling units have yet to arrive. This was largely attributable to procurement delays encountered by new troop contributors. The lack of force enablers in theatre, specifically the force reserve battalion, air medical evacuation teams and signal and engineer units, also continues to hamper the achievement of full operational capability.

19. During the reporting period, the force conducted a series of high-profile operations to deter criminality and banditry and provide a security umbrella for humanitarian activity. Some of these operations were helicopter-borne to make it possible to reach distant or inaccessible locations, including Daha, Haraze and Sam Ouandja (in the Central African Republic). These operations enabled the force to create conditions for the continuation of humanitarian assistance to those most in need during the rainy season.

IV. Update on the implementation of the Mission's mandate

A. Support to the Détachement intégré de sécurité

20. As at 30 September, the Détachement intégré de sécurité stood at 806 of the 850 initially deployed personnel. Thirty-three officers have resigned, five have been dismissed on disciplinary grounds and six have been killed in exchanges of fire or car accidents. In order to maintain the maximum strength and begin the relief of DIS personnel from service in the east, MINURCAT commenced the training of 150 new personnel and requested the Government to nominate candidates to undergo the competitive selection process. The training period for new DIS personnel has been extended from four to eight weeks to strengthen the professionalism of the unit, in accordance with the recommendation of the assessment mission which visited Chad in June 2009.

21. During the period under review, more than 248 United Nations police officers from 20 countries, including 26 women, continued to mentor, monitor and advise the Détachement intégré de sécurité. Those international police officers also continued supporting DIS in policing refugee camps in eastern Chad and conducting motorized and pedestrian patrols around key towns in eastern Chad. MINURCAT also provided support for the recruitment by the Chadian national police of 250 female officers with a view to improving the gender balance of the national police force. Chadian police authorities have received 1,200 applications for the 250 posts.

22. Since October 2008, the Détachement intégré de sécurité has conducted 3,611 patrols and 1,392 security escorts, primarily benefiting humanitarian actors. It has arrested 302 individuals involved in various crimes and offences, confiscated 28 weapons and recovered 27 vehicles stolen from United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. DIS has also recorded several cases of infiltration of armed individuals into refugee camps and has sought to contain this threat by placing security checkpoints around the camps. During the months of July, August and September 2009, DIS arrested 120 offenders, recovered six vehicles stolen from humanitarian organizations and processed 207 criminal cases, including 63 cases of armed robbery. As a result, general public awareness of and confidence in DIS have continued to increase.

23. During the reporting period, MINURCAT registered several cases of indiscipline by DIS personnel, including cases of unauthorized use of firearms and alcohol abuse. All incidents have been fully investigated and the DIS leadership has taken appropriate actions against the personnel involved.

24. In July, DIS received additional weapons from the Government. However, DIS personnel continued to encounter risks in the course of providing security escorts to humanitarian actors. A serious incident occurred on 8 July between Guéréda and the Mile refugee camp, when five DIS officers escorting an international non-governmental organization ambulance were attacked by heavily armed men. All five DIS officers were injured, one seriously. Accordingly, the DIS leadership has requested additional equipment, including flak jackets and helmets.

25. To date, the Trust Fund which supports the operations of DIS has received US$ 24 million against the 2008-2009 budget requirement of $25.5 million. The anticipated disbursement of two additional pledges totalling $1.5 million will soon bring total contributions to $25.5 million. For 2010, the resource requirements for the support of DIS, as well as new MINURCAT programmes in support of the justice and prisons sectors in eastern Chad, amount to $21.7 million. In this regard, MINURCAT, jointly with the Government of Chad and the European Commission, organized a donor meeting in Brussels on 2 October. The European Commission, France, Luxembourg, Norway and the United States made generous pledges totalling about $14.5 million.

B. Justice and prisons

26. During the reporting period, United Nations experts continued to support the functioning of courts in eastern Chad. On 24 July, the Criminal Court of Abéché, with the support of MINURCAT, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNHCR, completed a six-week circuit session that dealt with 42 criminal cases. A total of 107 accused persons were put on trial, represented by a defence counsellor, with sentences ranging from five years to life imprisonment. MINURCAT also provided technical support to the mobile court hearings of the Tribunal de Première Instance in Goz Beïda and Farchana, including the preparation of court documents. During July and August, court facilities in Iriba and Goz Beïda were rehabilitated and equipped with MINURCAT and UNDP support.

27. United Nations staff also continued to develop broader capacity-building and technical support to the judicial sector in eastern Chad during the reporting period. MINURCAT continued on-the-job training sessions for DIS elements on criminal

law, rules and procedures and judicial investigation techniques. MINURCAT also helped to develop dialogue between security and policing forces including DIS and the Office of the Prosecutor. In July, the Government of Germany committed itself to funding a project to support the training of judges and other public administration officials performing the functions of *juge de paix*, which was jointly developed by MINURCAT and UNDP. In August, the Chadian Bar Association and UNDP agreed on the parameters of a legal aid project. The project aims to build capacity and provide technical cooperation in the area of legislative reform, to establish a *Maison des Avocats* in Abéché and to organize legal clinics to provide legal aid and judicial assistance to vulnerable populations.

28. During the reporting period, two draft laws aimed at establishing a professional prison service in Chad were finalized with technical and logistical support from MINURCAT and UNDP. Representatives from key Chadian ministries, including the Ministry of Justice and the Interior, participated in a validation workshop and discussions leading to the finalization of the draft laws, which have been submitted to parliament. In addition, MINURCAT continued to support the training and professional development of national prison officials, including on-the-job training on human rights approaches to prison management, best practices and prison development. The Mission also completed training modules for the impending recruitment and training of Chadian prison staff, which will be put into practice once funds become available through the Mission's Trust Fund.

29. In order to improve prison infrastructure, MINURCAT continued to implement projects to bolster security and the living conditions of female inmates in Abéché Prison and to rebuild the Iriba jail. Major challenges to the living conditions of prisoners remain, however, such as lack of food and frequent water shortages. The frequent escapes of prisoners from prison facilities in eastern Chad due in part to poor perimeter security and security training, remained of concern.

C. Human rights

30. During the period under review, MINURCAT conducted numerous investigative and monitoring visits to the 12 refugee camps and 13 sites for internally displaced persons in eastern Chad. MINURCAT documented 17 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, including rapes and forced early marriages. Five victims of rape were minors aged between 9 and 17 years. During July, MINURCAT documented numerous cases of female genital mutilation, including 3 in Iridimi camp, 10 in the Gourounkoun internally displaced persons site and 8 in the Koubigou internally displaced persons site. In the Koloma site for the internally displaced, complications arising from female genital mutilation led to the death of a 9-year-old girl.

31. In the light of these cases, MINURCAT commenced sensitization campaigns on female genital mutilation, sexual and gender-based violence and forced marriages, targeting internally displaced persons and refugee communities as well as local authorities. As a result, the gendarmerie initiated criminal investigations in three rape cases, after DIS arrested the perpetrators and transferred them to the *juge de paix*.

32. During the reporting period, MINURCAT continued to observe non-compliance with the 48-hour legal limit for initial preventive detention by local police officers. More than 20 cases of prolonged pretrial detention were registered. At the

gendarmerie cells in Goz Beïda, detainees were kept in holding cells for up to 55 days without appearing before a magistrate, while in Iriba and Adre inmates remained in prison for several months without charge, owing to the absence of judicial officers. MINURCAT continued to advocate with judicial authorities for urgent follow-up on cases of arbitrary and prolonged pretrial detention, which result primarily from the limited presence of judicial authorities and weak capacity of law enforcement officials.

33. During the reporting period, MINURCAT also provided technical support to the Ministry of Human Rights for the organization of a national human rights forum, scheduled for November 2009. The forum will be attended by regional and national government officials; civil society organizations and representatives of United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations and will serve as a platform for the elaboration of a national action plan on human rights.

D. Child protection

34. During the aforementioned monitoring visits to refugee camps and sites for internally displaced persons, MINURCAT documented cases of alleged child recruitment by the Darfur rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). In particular, on 11 and 14 August MINURCAT investigated reports that eight minors from Bredjing and one from the Farchana refugee camps had disappeared. During several visits and discussions with numerous sources within the camps, MINURCAT was informed that the children had been recruited by JEM and had been taken to the Sudan or Am Djarass Prefecture, north-eastern Chad. The person who facilitated the recruitment was also identified.

35. Meanwhile, the reporting period saw Government efforts to sensitize military personnel and field commanders on Chad's international obligations with respect to child recruitment. From 22 to 26 August, the Government of Chad led a verification and sensitization mission to military centres and barracks in Abéché, N'Djamena and Koundoul. MINURCAT, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP and representatives of the diplomatic community also participated in the mission. The team inspected barracks, military training centres and transit points for armed opposition groups who join the Armed Forces and sensitized approximately 800 military personnel and their commanders on child recruitment.

36. MINURCAT and UNICEF continued to co-chair the Chadian Task Force on children in armed conflict, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005). Task Force members, including MINURCAT, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP, continue to conduct verification visits in refugee camps and internally displaced person sites and to support Government efforts to eradicate the recruitment of children by armed groups. Late in August, MINURCAT completed a project to support the rehabilitation of the Centre de transit et d'orientation in Abéché, where demobilized child soldiers are housed prior to being reunited with their families.

E. Gender

37. In addition to the ongoing sensitization campaigns, MINURCAT and its partners in the field developed an extensive campaign concerning sexual and gender-based violence, to be rolled out from October to December 2009, involving outreach to

beneficiaries and training of service providers. Chadian authorities have expressed a desire to be fully engaged in the campaign and the fight against sexual violence. MINURCAT also convened two workshops on Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), to promote women's participation in the peace process. Participants included women and girls from local populations, such as those of Farchana and Iriba, as well as from refugee and internally displaced person sites.

F. Civil affairs

38. During the period under review, MINURCAT continued its efforts to support local reconciliation and intercommunity dialogue in eastern Chad. In much of the east, underlying tribal tensions and disputes between sedentary farmers and nomadic herders, triggered by competition for scarce resources, have been intensified in recent years by the displacement of population and prevalence of weapons. The situation has been further exacerbated by the weakness of the rule of law in eastern Chad, the breakdown of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and the manipulation of conflicts for political and military purposes since the Darfur crisis broke out in 2003. One of the most serious and politicized conflicts is between the Zaghawa and Tama groups in the Dar Tama department of the Wadi Fira region. Smaller conflicts exist in other regions, including Ouaddaï and Dar Sila, where MINURCAT has focused most of its local reconciliation efforts.

39. In the Ouaddaï region, composed of many diverse communities, MINURCAT and local community leaders endeavoured to build confidence during the reporting period, by conducting six joint missions to four villages, organizing public forums of community representatives and establishing reconciliation commissions chaired by traditional and administrative authorities. In the Assoungha district, formal agreements between the community leaders of Gadalwalga, Miata and Kawa ended intercommunal feuds in those villages. In July, the local authorities of Assoungha, supported by MINURCAT, facilitated an intercommunity dialogue between chiefs from the Zaghawa and Assounghori communities, who pledged to end their dispute. As a result, some members of the Assounghori group returned temporarily to their places of origin to cultivate their fields. In August, reconciliation efforts were conducted in the Kawa area involving Assounghori, Zaghawa, Massalit and Gorane groups. MINURCAT has encouraged local authorities to establish follow-up mechanisms and to monitor the implementation of such agreements.

40. The Dar Sila region comprises many ethnicities, including Arab and non-Arab groups, and is home to approximately 96 per cent of displaced Chadians. During the reporting period, MINURCAT supported the Governor and traditional authorities in the establishment of a working group on intercommunity dialogue comprising local Chadian stakeholders and United Nations representatives. MINURCAT also provided heavy-duty ploughs to support large-scale cultivation of fields by returnees in Dar Sila.

41. In the Wadi Fira region, reports were received of increased tensions over land use between refugees and the host community in Mile, near Guéréda. The Guéréda/Birak region is one of the most tense and problematic in the MINURCAT area of operations, largely owing to unresolved conflicts between the two dominant ethnic groups. MINURCAT continues to seek the support of local authorities for reconciliation efforts to commence in Guéréda. In Iriba, MINURCAT developed a

vegetable-gardening project, involving land preparation, the provision of tools and training schemes, to reduce tensions between the local population and refugees.

G. HIV and AIDS

42. During the reporting period, MINURCAT continued mainstreaming HIV/AIDS awareness throughout the Mission: 304 mission personnel were sensitized, 127 of whom were voluntarily tested for HIV. On 29 July in Goz Beïda camps of internally displaced persons, MINURCAT and an international non-governmental organization organized sensitization sessions on female genital mutilation, focusing on the medical consequences and the possibility of HIV/AIDS transmission from the practice. A total of 234 participants attended the sessions. From 17 to 21 August, MINURCAT, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNHCR and the Délégation sanitaire du Ouaddaï, also facilitated a workshop on the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child in Hadjer Hadid, Ouaddaï region; 22 participants, mainly government and non-governmental organization health professionals, attended the seminar.

H. Mine action

43. Since the fighting between the Armed Forces of Chad and Chadian armed opposition groups in May 2009, affected areas have largely been cleared of unexploded ordnance. However, throughout the area of operations, there remains a serious risk to civilians from explosive remnants of war left over from several years of fighting. During the period, MINURCAT and its mine action partners continued efforts to raise awareness and destroy unexploded ordnance; they destroyed a total of 69 pieces of unexploded ordnance, including 19 in Sector North, 30 in Sector Centre and 20 in Sector South. In addition, mine awareness campaigns were carried out in schools and several community centres. During the period, the MINURCAT contractor MineTech International, in coordination with the National Demining Centre, recruited 59 national demining staff, to support the establishment of regional centres for demining activities. MINURCAT supported the training of the deminers and provided logistical support and liaison with MINURCAT regional officers to ensure an efficient transition. Through MineTech, three road verification and demining teams were deployed in Iriba, Farchana and Goz Beïda and a rapid response team was deployed in Abéché.

V. Mission support

44. During the reporting period, discussions continued on the draft amendment to the status-of-mission agreement to reflect the military component of MINURCAT, which was submitted to the Government for signature on 3 March 2009. For the time being, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1861 (2009), the model status-of-forces agreement of 9 October 1990 applies provisionally to supplement existing agreements. As I informed President Déby during a meeting in New York on 22 September, the taxes and fees which the Government of Chad proposes to impose on MINURCAT are inconsistent with the existing status-of-mission agreement of 21 March 2008 and with the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The President made a commitment that his

Government would conclude the negotiations and sign the amendment by the end of October.

45. Since my last report, work has continued on the expansion of camps in Abéché, Goz Beïda, Farchana and Iriba and the logistics base in N'Djamena. A contractor was also tasked to complete the preparation of sites and construction of security perimeters for new camps in Bahai, Guéréda and Koukou Angarana. The Mission will construct the offices and accommodation units at those sites. The installation of prefabricated structures for DIS accommodation in the field continued and is scheduled for completion by the end of October. Meanwhile, MINURCAT proceeded with the construction of aprons at N'Djamena and Abéché airports, in accordance with an agreement with the Government of Chad on the transfer of sites and infrastructure. MINURCAT and the Chadian authorities have agreed on the layout and locations of the aprons.

46. In mid-September, MINURCAT commenced a water drilling project in eastern Chad, utilizing personnel and equipment provided by Norway. The severe water shortage in the region has become a serious challenge, including for provision of drinking water to DIS. The first phase of the project consists of a hydrological survey in the Mission area, while concomitantly the Mission is developing water conservation measures for all MINURCAT camps. Meanwhile, problems related to fuel supplies have been addressed following disruptions earlier in the year.

47. In September, an integrated radio communications system was commissioned in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, to connect the Mission's military and civilian components with DIS, United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors in the area of operations. The system became fully operational in October 2009.

48. During the reporting period, the difficult operating environment continued to affect the provision of support. Heavy rains hampered support to the Mission in some areas, especially in Birao, Goz Beïda and Koukou Angarana, which will remain out of reach by land until at least mid-October. In addition, disputes over the payment of taxes by contractors led to delays in the deployment of material required for the support of troops and construction of MINURCAT civilian facilities.

VI. Safety and security

49. During the reporting period, security remained at phase IV in northern and eastern Chad and at phase III in N'Djamena and southern areas. Until the MINURCAT force is fully deployed with the necessary enablers to achieve full operating capacity, it will remain difficult to mitigate security risks throughout the area of operations, particularly in border areas. In the north-eastern Central African Republic, security phase IV remains in place in the Mission's area of operation.

VII. Observations and recommendations

50. The rainy season brought a much-needed reprieve from the cycle of confrontations between Chadian armed opposition groups and the Government of Chad, and stymied the activities of bandits. It provided the nascent Détachement

intégré de sécurité and MINURCAT, in particular its new force, with a period of consolidation, to enhance their capacity to support humanitarian efforts.

51. Further to the strategic workplan outlined in my previous report, MINURCAT made steady albeit limited progress towards the attainment of key benchmarks. Construction of the forward operating bases and the continuing deployment of the MINURCAT force, as well as the strengthening of its expeditionary capabilities, is gradually enabling the Mission to provide area-wide security within its area of operation. In addition, improved coordination among DIS, the national police and the gendarmerie has enhanced security procedures. These efforts, complemented by well synchronized peace consolidation programmes of the humanitarian and development community could contribute to the voluntary return of the refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin.

52. As previously noted, however, sustained engagement by the Government of Chad and its partners is essential to meeting the benchmarks for the withdrawal of MINURCAT, including the sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Specifically, the Government and its partners will need to enhance national capacity for the protection of civilians and to resolve the causes of armed conflict in eastern Chad and the subregion, including tensions between the Sudan and Chad, fighting between rebels and Government forces in Chad and Darfur, and localized sources of conflict between ethnic groups.

53. Unfortunately, regional peace efforts remain stalled as a result of continued tensions between Chad and the Sudan. The Dakar Contact Group has not met since November 2008, while the Doha commitment of 3 May has not been realized. The perpetuation of the hostility between Chad and the Sudan continues to frustrate solutions to the conflicts in Darfur and eastern Chad, exacerbating the plight of civilians in both regions. The parties, together with regional actors and the international community, must reinvigorate meaningful peace efforts. In this regard, the recent decision by the Government of Chad to relocate the Ouré Cassoni refugee camp, if carried out in a manner which contributes to the demilitarization of the camp, could help to build confidence between the Sudan and Chad.

54. As I have previously stressed, however, the long-term peace and stability of the region depends primarily on resolving the internal conflicts prevailing in both the Sudan and Chad. In this regard, it is encouraging that the Government of Chad and the political opposition have established an independent electoral body to oversee legislative and presidential elections, a vital precursor for a successful and credible electoral process in Chad. Further progress is however needed on other aspects of the agreement of 13 August, including governance reforms vital to improving the transparency and functioning of administrative, judicial and military institutions. Moreover, the absence of a comprehensive process of national reconciliation continues to limit prospects for stability in Chad. It is vital that all Chadian armed opposition groups renounce the military solution and are brought into a meaningful political process with the Government of Chad. I encourage Member States to support the Chadian parties to make progress in these areas.

55. During the reporting period, incidents of violence occurred throughout the area of operation, affecting civilians as well as United Nations and humanitarian personnel. The proliferation of arms, tribal disputes and border tensions continue to plague eastern Chad and to complicate the security and social environment. While MINURCAT and relevant partners take measures to improve the situation at the

local level, it is essential that the Government of Chad redouble its efforts to address sources of insecurity, including the root causes of inter-ethnic strife and the proliferation of weapons.

56. The enhancement of the Détachement intégré de sécurité and the related rule of law capacity of the Government of Chad remains a key prerequisite for national ownership of the security architecture in eastern Chad. During the reporting period, significant progress was made towards equipping DIS to provide security and protection in and around the camps, while United Nations actors, donors and national authorities developed broader capacity-building and technical support to the judicial and prison sectors. Sustained international support will be essential for the success of DIS and rule of law programmes. In this regard, I am encouraged by the generous commitments made by Member States and international partners at the donor meeting hosted by the European Union in Brussels on 2 October. I invite others to contribute to the Trust Fund in order to meet the full resource requirement necessary to support DIS and rule of law programmes in 2010. The United Nations will continue to rely on the engagement of the international community in the operations of DIS and other aspects of progress in eastern Chad.

57. While the MINURCAT force will be enhanced by the arrival of new troops and enabling units in the coming months, the achievement of full operational capability and effective implementation of the Mission's mandate depends on the full and timely deployment of all troops and enablers. Regrettably, the Secretariat has still not received pledges for 11 of the 18 military utility helicopters detailed in the force requirements. The military concept of operations requires that MINURCAT possess an expeditionary capability for force projection, for which helicopters capable of all-weather day and night operations are vital. I urge Member States to do everything possible to assist in filling these gaps.

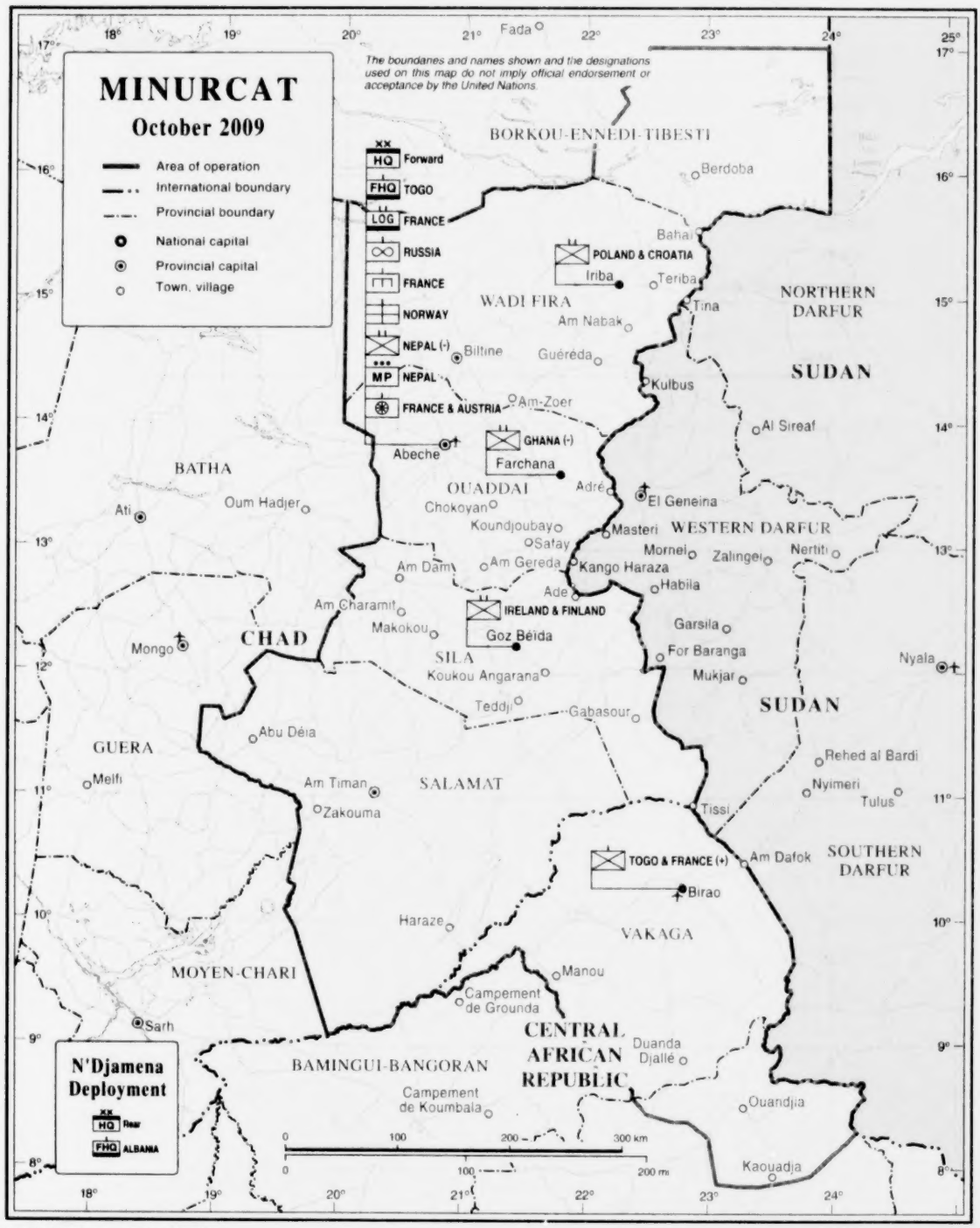
58. In conclusion, I would like to thank my Special Representative, Victor Angelo, and all the MINURCAT military, police and civilian personnel for their continued commitment and dedication to duty. I also thank the United Nations country team and the entire humanitarian community, who are tirelessly working to bring hope to the vulnerable people in eastern Chad. Finally, I thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as donors to the MINURCAT Trust Fund for their invaluable contributions to stability and security in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic.

Annex

Military and police strength as at 15 September 2009

	Military				
Country	*Liaison officers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Civilian police*
Albania	0	0	63	63	0
Austria	0	3	147	150	0
Bangladesh	2	5	0	7	0
Benin	0	0	0	0	27
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	0	0	1	0
Brazil	3	0	0	3	0
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	17
Burundi	0	0	0	0	9
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	12
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	37
Croatia	0	2	15	17	0
Egypt	2	1	0	3	16
Ethiopia	0	13	0	13	0
Finland	0	2	72	74	0
France	0	6	301	307	17
Gabon	1	0	0	1	0
Ghana	1	17	202	220	0
Guinea	0	0	0	0	3
Ireland	0	11	402	413	0
Jordan	0	0	0	0	11
Kenya	0	4	0	4	0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0	0	0	0	3
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	17
Malawi	0	5	0	5	0
Mali	0	0	0	0	7
Namibia	0	4	0	4	0
Nepal	1	17	285	303	0
Niger	0	0	0	0	12
Nigeria	2	15	0	17	0
Norway	0	3	170	173	0
Pakistan	0	5	0	5	0
Poland	0	2	310	312	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	5
Russian Federation	0	1	116	117	0
Rwanda	1	0	0	1	10

Country	Military				Civilian police
	Liaison officers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	
Senegal	2	11	0	13	12
Spain	0	5	0	5	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	2
Togo	0	7	419	426	8
Tunisia	1	3	0	4	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	2
United States of America	0	2	0	2	0
Yemen	2	0	0	2	22
Total	**19**	**144**	**2 502**	**2 665**	**249**



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